

in his/her recommendations or written counter-recommendations on the original and duplicate copy within five working days from receipt of the form from the contracting officer.

(2) SDB will complete Blocks 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 (when appropriate) prior to returning the screened form to the contracting officer.

(d) *Concurrence or rejection procedure.*

(1) The contracting officer shall complete Block 13 upon receipt of the original and duplicate copy of the screened form from SDB.

(2) If the contracting officer rejects the SDB counter-recommendation, he/she shall return the original and duplicate forms with his/her written reasons for rejection to SDB within two working days.

(3) Upon receipt of the contracting officer's rejection, SDB may: (i) accept, or (ii) appeal, the rejection. In the case of acceptance of the contracting officer's rejection, SDB shall annotate Block 14 when it renders a decision and return the original form to the contracting officer within two working days.

(e) *Appeal procedure.* (1) When informal efforts fail to resolve the set-aside disagreement between the contracting officer and SDB, the latter official may appeal the contracting officer's decision to the head of the contracting activity. Such an appeal will be made within five working days after receipt of the contracting officer's rejection.

(2) In the case of an appeal, SDB will send the original and duplicate form, with the appeal noted in Block 14, directly to the head of the contracting activity with its written reasons for appealing. The contracting officer will be notified of SDB's appeal by means of a copy of the written reasons for appealing.

(3) The head of the contracting activity shall render a decision on the appeal (complete Block 15) within three working days after receipt of same and return the original to SDB and the duplicate to the contracting officer.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 21058, June 4, 1987; 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997; 64 FR 42042, Aug. 3, 1999]

719.271-7 Reports on procurement actions that are exempted from screening.

(a) *Unilateral and class set-asides.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB. The original will be filed in the contract file.

(1) If, upon review of the material submitted under 719.271-7(a) above, SDB concludes that it would be practicable to accomplish all or a portion of the procurement involved under section 8(a) subcontracting, it shall so advise the contracting officer in writing within five days after receipt of such material.

(2) Such advice shall be considered a counter-recommendation and shall be processed in accordance with 719.271-6 (d) and (e).

(b) *Public exigency exemption.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB. In addition to the documentation called for in 719.271-6, the contracting officer shall furnish a copy of his/her written determination exempting the procurement from screening. The determination shall cite the pertinent facts which led to his/her decision. This exemption is not intended to be used as substitute for good procurement planning and lead-time; SDB will report abuses of this exemption to the head of the contracting activity for appropriate action in accordance with 719.271-4(c).

(c) *Institution building contract (IBC) exemption.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB.

(d) *Personal services contract exemption.* Preparation of Form USAID 1410-14 is not required for personal services contracts.

719.272 Small disadvantaged business policies.

In addition to the requirements in FAR part 19, part 726 provides for contracting and subcontracting with small

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disadvantaged businesses and other disadvantaged enterprises based on provisions of the foreign assistance appropriations acts.

[58 FR 8702, Feb. 17, 1993]

Subpart 719.273—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mentor-Protégé Program

SOURCE: 72 FR 32543, June 13, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

719.273 The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mentor-Protégé Program.

719.273-1 Purpose.

The USAID Mentor-Protégé Program is designed to assist small business, including veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone, small socially and economically disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business in enhancing their capabilities to perform contracts and sub-contracts for USAID and other Federal agencies. The Mentor-Protégé Program is also designed to improve the performance of USAID contractors and subcontractors by providing developmental assistance to Protégé entities, fostering the establishment of long-term business relationships between small business and prime contractors, and increasing the overall number of small business that receive USAID contract and sub-contract awards. A firm's status as a Protégé under a USAID contract shall not have an effect on the firm's eligibility to seek other prime contracts or subcontracts.

719.273-2 Definitions.

Throughout, the term "small business" includes all categories of small firms as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) on whose behalf the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is chartered to advocate, including small business, small disadvantaged business, women-owned small business, veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small business and small business located in HUBZones, as those

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terms are defined in 13 CFR part 124. The determination of affiliation is a function of the SBA.

(a) A "Mentor" is a prime contractor that elects to promote and develop small business subcontractors by providing developmental assistance designed to enhance the business success of the Protégé.

(b) "Program" refers to the USAID Mentor-Protégé Program as described in this Chapter.

(c) "Protégé" means a small business, small disadvantaged business, women-owned small business, HUBZone small business, veteran-owned small business or service-disabled veteran owned small business that is the recipient of developmental assistance pursuant to a Mentor-Protégé Agreement.

719.273-3 Incentives for prime contractor participation.

(a) Under the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)(E), USAID is authorized to provide appropriate incentives to encourage subcontracting opportunities for small business consistent with the efficient and economical performance of the contract. This authority is limited to negotiated procurements. FAR 19.202-1 provides additional guidance.

(b) Costs incurred by a Mentor to provide developmental assistance, as described in 719.273-8 to fulfill the terms of their agreement(s) with a Protégé firm(s), are not reimbursable as a direct cost under a USAID contract. If USAID is the mentor's responsible audit agency under FAR 42.703-1, USAID will consider these costs in determining indirect cost rates. If USAID is not the responsible audit agency, mentors are encouraged to enter into an advance agreement with their responsible audit agency on the treatment of such costs when determining indirect cost rates.

(c) In addition to subparagraph (b) above, contracting officers may give Mentors evaluation credit under FAR 15.101-1 considerations for subcontracts awarded pursuant to their Mentor-Protégé Agreements and their subcontracting plans. Therefore: